



Philippe Jacon, President

Based in Sparks, Maryland, **BD Diagnostics** is a leading provider of products for the safe collection and transport of diagnostic specimens as well as instrumentation for quick, accurate analysis across a broad range of infectious diseases. In short, it is the local division of an internationally renowned biotechnology company long recognized for its philanthropy as well as its product. Stevenson University's relationship with BD Diagnostics dates back to the late 1980's when BD began supporting scholarship endowments for students. Since that time, BD has been very supportive of SU's efforts to educate career-ready graduates, prepared to pursue further education or to enter the workforce. From financial support, to in-kind gifts, on-campus recruiting, student internships, advisory board membership, and human resources, BD has strongly supported the education and training of students in the biosciences.

When Stevenson became the Maryland Affiliate for the Project Lead the Way Biomedical Sciences™ program in 2006, BD Diagnostics recognized the value and importance of this rigorous, standards-based program designed to prepare high school students in the biomedical sciences. BD Diagnostics has provided substantial financial support to defray the start-up costs associated with purchasing the instruments, supplies, and equipment necessary to deliver the Summer Training Institute (STI). The STI, now called Core Training, is an intensive residential, 2-week training program for high school teachers from across the nation. It prepares them to take a particular Project Lead the Way (PLTW) biomedical sciences course back to their high school and implement it during the subsequent academic year. Since the first core training in summer 2007, teachers have been trained in and field tested three of the courses in the curriculum, and the fourth course will be added in summer 2010. The support of BD Diagnostics has enabled SU to meet the increased training demands as more courses have been added and more schools have adopted the Project Lead the Way Biomedical Sciences™ program.

In 2009, the partnership was further solidified with the designation of a PLTW liaison at BD, Dorothy White. With the help of Ms. White, BD has provided representatives to PLTW Counselor Conferences to present industry perspectives on workforce needs and worked to educate the biotechnology community, including other potential corporate partners and government agencies, about the PLTW program and its benefits. As a result of this business partnership, more than 200 teachers from across the country have participated in training for the biomedical sciences program. In Maryland, growth in the biomedical sciences program has increased from 181 students in 2008 to 440 in 2009.